

**California Department of Conservation  
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**

**2000 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Butte (southern half)

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Michael Kisko

**PHOTOGRAPHY:**

source: NASA-Ames Research Center

date: 14 September 1999

scale: 1:130,000

film type: CIR transparencies

coverage gaps: Gaps exist in eastern part of county- Clipper Mills, Cascade, American House, and Strawberry Valley quads.

**WRITTEN OR ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:** *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 1998 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made while conducting the 2000 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

*cities:*

*county:*

*others:* none as of 9/20/00

➤ *personal contacts:* I tried to get ahold of Stacy Cepello of DWR Environmental Restoration Division to find out if he had any information on the extensive wetland being constructed on the Honcut quad. His number is (530) 529-7352 if you would like to try to contact him.

➤ *websites:*

**1998-2000 CHANGES\*:** *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quads) of each type of change encountered. Make sure to list and describe particularly large, unusual or notable changes and give estimates of the acreage involved.*

➤ I → D: There were only 3 incidences of irrigated farmland being urbanized in this update. The first being the addition of a new subdivision on the southwestern urban fringe of Gridley in an area with a lot of old orchards. The rest of the urbanization of irrigated farmland in this update occurred on the Biggs quad where new housing on the southern urban fringe of Biggs and boundary adjustments accounted for the rest of the urbanization.

➤ N → G: All of the land undergoing a change in use from nonirrigated agriculture to grazing land was located on the Honcut and Palermo quads. One 50-acre plot and two 100+ acre plots of land which had been fallow for some time were shifted to grazing land in the northern part of the Honcut quad. The last change of this type was another incidence of land going fallow in the Palermo quad.

➤ N, G, X → D: There were 7 changes representing this kind of urbanization, mostly on the Oroville and Palermo quads. In the Oroville area this included a new self-storage lot. The Palermo quad had the most changes with the fairly new Oroville Airport Business Park, a new church on the eastern urban fringe of Palermo, a new gas station, and the Feather River Casino along with some adjacent housing..

➤ I → X: There was a modest amount of conversion of irrigated farmland to “other lands,” mostly in the Shippee and Penington quads. A notable change in the Shippee quad was the conversion of 400+ acres of irrigated farmland to a large wetland area. In the Penington quad, an extension of the Gray Lodge Waterfowl Management Area apparently occurred. Most of the other changes from irrigated farmland to “other lands” were due to plots of land less than 40 acres having been fallow for 3 updates.

Finally, there is a fairly massive wetland construction project going on along Middle Honcut Road in the Honcut quad. I was not sure of the extent of the project so I flagged the area for the next update—pay special attention to this area!

➤ I → N, G: There were 13 changes of irrigated farmland to nonirrigated or grazing land, mostly on the Honcut and Palermo quads. The vast majority of the changes occurred to irrigated fields which were surrounded or bordered by grazing lands and had been fallow for three or more updates. One exception to this was an olive orchard which had previously been categorized as being irrigated which turned out to be an old, nonirrigated orchard upon field inspection.

➤ N, G, X, → I: Irrigated agriculture accounted for much of the conversion seen this update with 37 changes of nonirrigated, grazing, or “other lands” to irrigated agriculture! New irrigated agriculture was seen all over the southern part of the county with the Palermo quad showing the biggest increase in irrigated ag. Most of the changes were due to new orchards and new or replanted rice fields. Irrigated pasture is also making a good showing as more rural ranchettes are built and pasture is irrigated for the resident’s horses and cattle.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2000.*

I did want to note a new water-ski lake in the Shippee quad which was a conversion of grazing land to “other land.”

**PROBLEM AREAS:** *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2002? Why?*

Special attention should be given to nonirrigated polygons in the next update to make certain of their irrigation status during the next field check. Also, careful inspection

of olive orchards in the hills should be done to confirm irrigation status.

**OUT OF DATE BASE MAPS:** *Please list any base maps used for update or publication of this county which are woefully out of date due to extensive new development, road construction, etc.*

**LABOR ESTIMATE:** *Please estimate the amount of time spent on the following tasks.*

*photo interpretation, start date: 8/30/00*

*photo interpretation, number of days: 8*

*ground truthing dates: 9/12/00-9/15/00*

*# days for map compilation and clean up: 3*

\* **Note:** P = Prime Farmland; S = Farmland of Statewide Importance; U = Unique Farmland; L = Farmland of Local Importance; G = Grazing Land; D = Urban and Built-up Land; X = Other Land; W = Water Areas; I = Irrigated Farmland; N = Nonirrigated Farmland

*Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:*

[www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp)

Special Changes to Butte County:

This update was the first “heads-up” review for Butte. While Mike and Kerri did the field work and identified all true changes to Butte Co., DP then took their work and made additional changes, having the advantage of scanned photos as a backdrop. The usual boundary adjustments were made, including the redrawing of most Urban polygons. The big change worthy of noting is the revision of the river boundary along the Western edge of the county. While we had parts of the river in the Water category already, our linework was not particularly accurate in the 1998 file. It was decided that a wholesale change to the river boundary would be made during this update, and corresponding changes will be made to the neighboring counties. Since there was a rather significant change to the water boundaries, it was decided to back the changes into the 1998 file to keep the change from affecting the conversion numbers.